

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Satoh et al. (U.S. Patent 4,545,044).

Claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of the amendments and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Our comments with respect to these rejections are set forth below.

***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102***

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner refers to Satoh et al. as disclosing an optical disk recording and reproducing apparatus, which allegedly includes a similar structure and function to the claimed invention.

Currently presented claim 1 recites:

A writable area detection device for an optical recording/reproducing apparatus, comprising:

a waveform rectification unit for comparing an RF signal read from a user data area of a recording medium with a reference signal, and outputting a rectified pulse signal, said user data area comprising a writable area and a non-writable area;

a pulse generation unit for generating a pulse signal based on the rectified pulse signal,

a latch unit for latching the pulse signal; and

a detection unit for detecting said writable area of the recording medium  
by using an output signal of the latch unit and the pulse signal.

Upon reviewing Satoh et al., it seems that this reference teaches an envelope detecting circuit 32 which comprises a comparator 36 (corresponding to the waveform rectification unit), a counter 38 (corresponding to the pulse generation unit) and a latch (corresponding to the latch unit) (see col. 9 line 25 to col. 10 line 18 and Fig. 11).

However, the envelope detecting circuit 32 of Satoh et al. is used to detect the impossibility of reading out the prewritten information or data, while the exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention relates to a detecting device for detecting a writable area before writing or reading of data with respect to an optical recording medium. Accordingly, Satoh et al. does not disclose or teach, *inter alia*, “a detection unit for detecting said writable area of the recording medium by using an output signal of the latch unit and the pulse signal” as recited in claim 1, and is distinguished from the writable area detection device of claim 1. In this point of view, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Satoh et al., and therefore respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 1.

For similar reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that other independent claims 2, 8 and 9 are also not anticipated by Satoh et al., and therefore respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 2, 8 and 9.

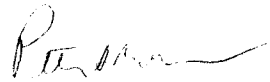
Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5, 6, 12 and 13 are dependent claims including all of the elements recited in claims 2 or 9, and therefore are not anticipated by Satoh et al. at least because of their dependency from the independent claims 2 and 9.

***Conclusion***

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Peter A. McKenna  
Registration No. 38,551

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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